AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. – 2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) A load balancer comprising:

extracting means identifying information specific to a mobile IP terminal from an arrival packet having a destination designated to a plurality of servers with a representative address; and

determining means determining a single destination server, from among the plurality of servers corresponding to the~~=~~destination of the packet, to be connected based on the identifying information, and rewriting the destination of the packet to be changed into the destination server from the plurality of servers, and to be transmitted to the destination server, wherein

the destination server is associated with the mobile IP terminal according to a load balancing algorithm,

the mobile IP terminal can communicate with the single destination server before and after the mobile IP terminal moves from one network to another network, and

~~The load balancer as claimed in claim 1, wherein~~ the identifying information is prescribed in predetermined lower bits of a source address of a packet utilizing a stateless address configuration method.

4. (currently amended) A load balancer comprising:

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extracting means identifying information specific to a mobile IP terminal from an arrival packet having a destination designated to a plurality of servers with a representative address; and

determining means determining a single destination server, from among the plurality of servers corresponding to the destination of the packet, to be connected based on the identifying information, and rewriting the destination of the packet to be changed into the destination server from the plurality of servers, and to be transmitted to the destination server, wherein

the destination server is associated with the mobile IP terminal according to a load balancing algorithm,

the mobile IP terminal can communicate with the single destination server before and after the mobile IP terminal moves from one network to another network, and

~~The load balancer as claimed in claim 1, wherein~~ the identifying information comprises a security parameter index of the packet if encrypted.

5. (currently amended) A load balancer comprising:

extracting means extracting identifying information specific to a mobile IP terminal from an arrival packet having a destination designated to a plurality of servers with a representative address;

requesting means requesting a home agent to notify a change of a care-of address to the load balancer itself when the care-of address of the mobile IP terminal has changed in the arrival packet; and

determining means determining a single destination server, from among the plurality of servers corresponding to the destination of the packet, to be connected by regarding the notified care-of address as the identifying information, and rewriting the destination of the packet to be

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changed into the destination server from the plurality of servers, and to be transmitted to the destination server, wherein

the destination server is associated with the mobile IP terminal according to a load balancing algorithm[[;]]_, and

~~wherein~~ the mobile IP terminal can communicate with the single destination server before and after the mobile IP terminal moves from one network to another network.

6. (currently amended) A load balancer comprising:

extracting means <u>extracting</u> identifying information specific to a mobile IP terminal from an arrival packet having a destination designated to a plurality of servers with a representative address;

requesting means requesting a terminal to notify a change of a care-of address <u>to the load balancer itself</u> when the care-of address of the terminal has changed in the arrival packet; and

<u>determining</u> means determining a single destination server, from among the plurality of servers corresponding to the destination of the packet, to be connected by regarding the notified care-of address as the identifying information, and rewriting the destination of the packet to be changed into the destination server from the plurality of servers, and to be transmitted to the destination server, wherein

the destination server is associated with the mobile IP terminal according to a load balancing algorithm[[;]]_, and

~~wherein~~ the mobile IP terminal can communicate with the single destination server before and after the mobile IP terminal moves from one network to another network.

7. (currently amended) The load balancer as claimed in claim [[2]]3, wherein when the extracting means extract a packet transmitted from a home link upon an arrival of the packet and the packet does not have the destination option header, the determining means determine the destination server by regarding a source address of the packet as the identifying information.

8. (currently amended) The load balancer as claimed in claim [[1]]3, wherein the determining means are provided with a table for storing an address of the destination server having a source address associated with the care-of address as a retrieval key, thereby determining the destination server using the source address of the arrival packet.

9. (previously presented) The load balancer as claimed in claim 5, wherein the determining means are provided with a table for storing an address of the destination server having a source address associated with the care-of address as a retrieval key, thereby determining the destination server using the source address of the arrival packet, and the table prepares an entry with a new care-of address as a retrieval key when the new care-of address has been notified, and stores, as storing data, an address of the destination server stored as data of an entry of an old care-of address.

10. (previously presented) The load balancer as claimed in claim 9, wherein the determining means store a lifetime in the data of the entry, periodically decrement the lifetime, update the lifetime every time a packet using the entry has arrived, and invalidate the entry upon expiration of the lifetime.

11. (currently amended) The load balancer as claimed in claim [[1]]3, wherein a home agent of a mobile IP terminal as a substitute for the server is made a destination to be connected.

12. – 13. (cancelled)

14. (previously presented) The load balancer as claimed in claim 7, wherein the determining means are provided with a table for storing an address of the destination server having a source address associated with the care-of address as a retrieval key, thereby determining the destination server using the source address of the arrival packet.

15. (previously presented) The load balancer as claimed in claim 6, wherein the determining means are provided with a table for storing an address of the destination server having a source address associated with the care-of address as a retrieval key, thereby determining the destination server using the source address of the arrival packet, and the table prepares an entry with a new care-of address as a retrieval key when the new care-of address has been notified, and stores, as storing data, an address of the destination server stored as data of an entry of an old care-of address.

16. (previously presented) The load balancer as claimed in claim 15, wherein the determining means store a lifetime in the data of the entry, periodically decrement the lifetime, update the lifetime every time a packet using the entry has arrived, and invalidate the entry upon expiration of the lifetime.